More Celebrities On Secret Service List

By Jack Anderson

The Secret Service, eager to protect its political charges from assassination, is keeping a suspicious eye on a host of celebrities.

One and all, they are known for shooting off their mouths at politicans. It's unlikely any of them would use a gun.

We have already reported that such unlikely assassins as comedians Groucho Marx and Tony Randall are on the Secret Service's suspicious list.

Now we've learned that the computerized file of 180,000 potential assassins also includes filmdom's "Godfather," Marlon Brando; television's "Arnie," Hershel Bernardi; actor-producer Carl Reiner; conservative news commentator Paul Harvey; comedian Dick Gregory; folk singer Joan Baez; Mexican-American activist Cesar Chavez; clergyman Rev. James Groppi and Quaker activist Lawrence Scott.

By contrast, George Wallace's accused assailant, Arthur Bremer, was nowhere mentioned in the Secret Service's vast files.

Brando aroused Secret Service suspicions because of his sympathy for the Black Panthers. "Subject attended 4-13-68 funeral of slain BPP (Black Panther Party member," reports the Secret Service darkly. "Has made statements sympathetic to black militant causes."

As for Gregory, the Secret Service acknowledges: "Subject often speaks critically of the protectees and administration but refrains from making threatening statements."

One of the least likely men in America to shoot a President or seek to overthrow the government is Paul Harvey, the voice of the status quo. Yet the Secret Service considers him a menace to the President because he once climbed over a security fence to get a story.

Rooney's Rule

The story can now be told how James Dore, a Brooklyn boy who made good, happened to be hired as a $17,400-a-year investigator for the Federal Maritime Commission.

Whatever Dore's talents as an investigator may be, his chief qualification was the friendship of Rep. John Rooney (D-N.Y.).

The irascible Rooney passes on the Federal Maritime Commission's budget, and he expects the commissioners to grovel before him.

A few years back, then-Maritime Chairman John Harllee appeared before Rooney's House Appropriations subcommittee to beg for funds. Harllee was flanked by budget experts prepared to justify every dollar in the budget.

But the old curmudgeon showed little interest in how many millions the Federal Maritime Commission planned to spend. What he was concerned about was the failure of his friend, Jim Dore, to land a job as an investigator.

If Dore wasn't hired, indicated Rooney, a lot of other people would be out of jobs, too. For he would cut the commission's budget, or perhaps hold up the whole amount until Dore got his job.

Rooney's threat was vivid enough that those in attendance remember it clearly. We contacted Harllee, now retired, to ask about his recollections.

When we pressed him, he recounted the incident: "Rooney had absolute power. He requested me to hire the guy in a very strong, forceful manner, in no uncertain terms. There was every indication that he would cut the budget, or hold it up if we did not comply. In the interest of the other employees, I hired the guy.

"And I'll tell you," Harllee added with a somber little chuckle, "Rooney didn't cut the budget as much that year as usual."

The details of Rooney's pressure tactics, of course, were carefully censored from the record of his subcommittee by the crafty chairman.

Washington Whirl

Hate Idol—The late Merwin K. Hart, the notorious anti-Semite and apostle of hate, was eulogized by his disciples the other evening at New York City's swank Waldorf-Astoria Hotel. Showing up to extol him were Rep. Philip Crane (R-Ill.) and Georgia's Lt. Gov. Lester Maddox. Awards were also granted to two legislators, Sen. Harry Byrd (Ind.-Va.) and Rep. John Schmitz (R-Calif.). A spokesman for Crane confessed that the congressman spoke at the gathering because he was paid $700. "We will probably check into groups more carefully in the future," said the spokesman. The offices of Maddox, Byrd and Schmitz claimed they had no knowledge of Hart's anti-Semitic record.

Free Treasure—Beware of a treasure chest, brimming with free Florida vacations and free household products, offered by Market Development Corp. Neither the vacations nor the products, it turns out are free. Deep in the tiny print, the prize winners are informed that the transportation to Florida isn't included and "a small additional charge" may even be required for the hotel reservations. And before any products are delivered, there's the small matter of a $15 service charge. We reached Market Development in Cincinnati but were given the runaround by the company's president, Ray Anderson, and lawyer, Arnold Morelli.

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